

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

4/20/73 EXT 22120

APPROVED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 075770

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USUN BEIRUT AMMAN CAIRO

JIDDA LONDON PARIS SANAA TEL AVIV TUNIS FROM KUWAIT

19 APR 73 REPEATED:

QUOTE KUWAIT 1280

E.. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON

REF: A. STATE 068250

B. KUWAIT 1189

C. KUWAIT 1213

SUMMARY: FONMIN ACCEPTS US ASSURANCES THAT USG NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH BEIRUT RAIDS AND IS DOING WHAT HE CAN TO COOL DOWN LOCAL PRESS. HE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED HOWEVER ABOUT UNSC MEETING ON BEIRUT RAIDS AND BELIEVES A US VETO ON FINAL RESOLUTION WILL BRING ABOUT YET ANOTHER DANGEROUS SETBACK TO THE US POSITION IN ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CALL ON FONMIN SABAH APRIL 18 I RAISED SUBJECT OF BROADCASTS AND ARTICLES CHARGING US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI
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RAIDS ON LEBANON. I SAID WAS GLAD NOTE THESE CHARGES HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN UP BY KUWAIT RADIO, BUT LOCAL PRESS OBVIOUSLY GOING OUT OF ITS WAY STIR UP FEELINGS OF POPULACE AGAINST AMERICANS. PRESS CLEARLY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE TRUTH AND THEIR DANGEROUS AND OUTRAGEOUS ACCUSATIONS, IF CONTINUED WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND KUWAIT. I SAID WAS SURE NEITHER SIDE WOULD WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.

2. FONMIN REPLIED KUWAIT GOVERNMENT RADIO WAS RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION AND WOULD NOT DELIBERATELY REPEAT FALSE AND SCURRILOUS REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE. AS FOR LOCAL PRESS, IT WAS FREE TO PRINT WHAT IT LIKED. NEVERTHELESS FONMIN ADDED HE HAD TACKLED LOCAL PRESS ON SUBJECT AND HAD CAUTIONED THEM SHOW SOME SENSE AND REASON. FONMIN SAID HE ACCEPTED BOTH THAT ACCUSATIONS WERE PATENTLY FALSE AND THAT REPETITION OF THEM WAS BAD FOR ARABS AS WELL AS US.

3. FONMIN THEN TURNED TO UNSC MEETING ON BEIRUT RAID AND SAID HE BELIEVED IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOT ALL TO US- LEBANESE RELATIONS BUT TO US POSITION WITH ALL OTHER ARAB THAT USG NOT RPT NOT EXERCISE VETO ON FINAL RESOLUTION. WITH ARAB OPINION SO INFLAMED BY SIZE AND SAVAGERY OF ISRAELI RAID, ARABS AS WHOLE SIMPLY WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND US VETO. I SAID I SHARED HIS HOPE A RESOLUTION COULD BE WORKED OUT THAT USG WOULD NOT HAVE TO VETO, I. E. ONE HAVING BALANCED IN SENSE OF CONDEMNING " CYCLE OF VIOLENCE" IN MIDEAST SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRORISM CARRIED OUT BY BOTH SIDES FONMIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE POINT BUT HE CONVINCED US VETO ON ISSUE ON BEIRUT RAID BOUND TO BRING ABOUT ANOTHER DANGEROUS SETBACK FOR US THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. STOLTZFUS UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE075770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA: ARAPHEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730449/aaaaiuyo.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.STATE 068250, B.KUWAIT 1189, C.KUWAIT 1213
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <22-Oct-2001 by eisnerah, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980128
Subject: CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON
TAGS: PINS, LE, US
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005